MARVEL

657

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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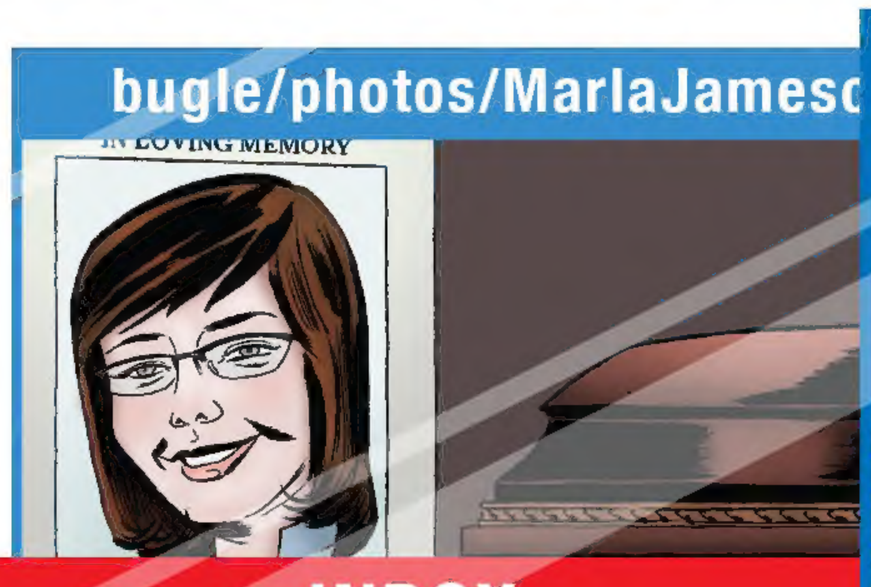

INBOX

From: **Spider-Man**
To: Ben@FantasticFour.com, Reed@FantasticFour.com, Sue@FantasticFour.com

Subject: **Johnny**

Guys,
I just heard about Johnny. I can't believe it! What happened?

Pete

****

Ben wrote:

Pete,
Took on a whole annihilation wave by himself to save the kids. I would have done it, but he pushed me back through the gate. Someone had to stay behind. It should have been me.

Ben

Reed wrote:

No one blames you, Ben. We all wish it could have been different.

Spider-Man wrote:

I don't even know what to say. First Marla Jameson, and now this. I had a little talk with Franklin about my uncle's death. I wish there was more I could do.

Sue wrote:

Thanks, Peter. We missed you at the funeral. We were sorry to hear about

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The Baxter Building

HOME TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

REED? SUE? BEN? ANYBODY--

HEY!

FWAP

WAY TO MAKE A GUY FEEL WELCOME.

SORRY, SON. WE HAD OUR CURRENT SECURITY SYSTEM OFFLINE.

DIDN'T REALIZE I HAD THIS OLD ONE ON STANDBY.

HOLD ON, JUNIOR. I'LL GET YA OUTTA THERE.

COULDA' DONE THAT MYSELF, THING.

I KNOW, KID. I REMEMBER. LIKE IT WUZ YESTERDAY.

SPIDEY? WHAT BRINGS YOU AROUND? NOT THAT WE MIND. IN FACT, REED AND I...

...WE APPRECIATE THE TALK YOU HAD WITH FRANKLIN. IT REALLY HELPED HIM.

GLAD I COULD-- UM. THE KIDS, ARE THEY--?

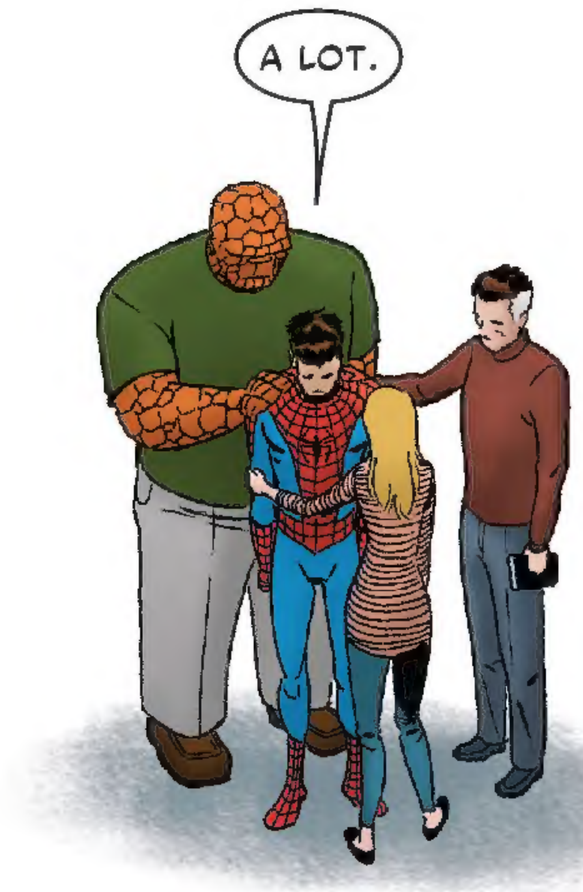
ALL IN BED.

THANKS. LOOK, I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE--IN PERSON--FOR NOT BEING AT THE SERVICE.

IT'S JUST, I'VE BEEN TO TOO MANY FUNERALS LATELY. AND-- WELL--

WITH JOHNNY? I DON'T WANNA THINK ABOUT HIM BEING--

I MISS HIM.



TORCH SONG

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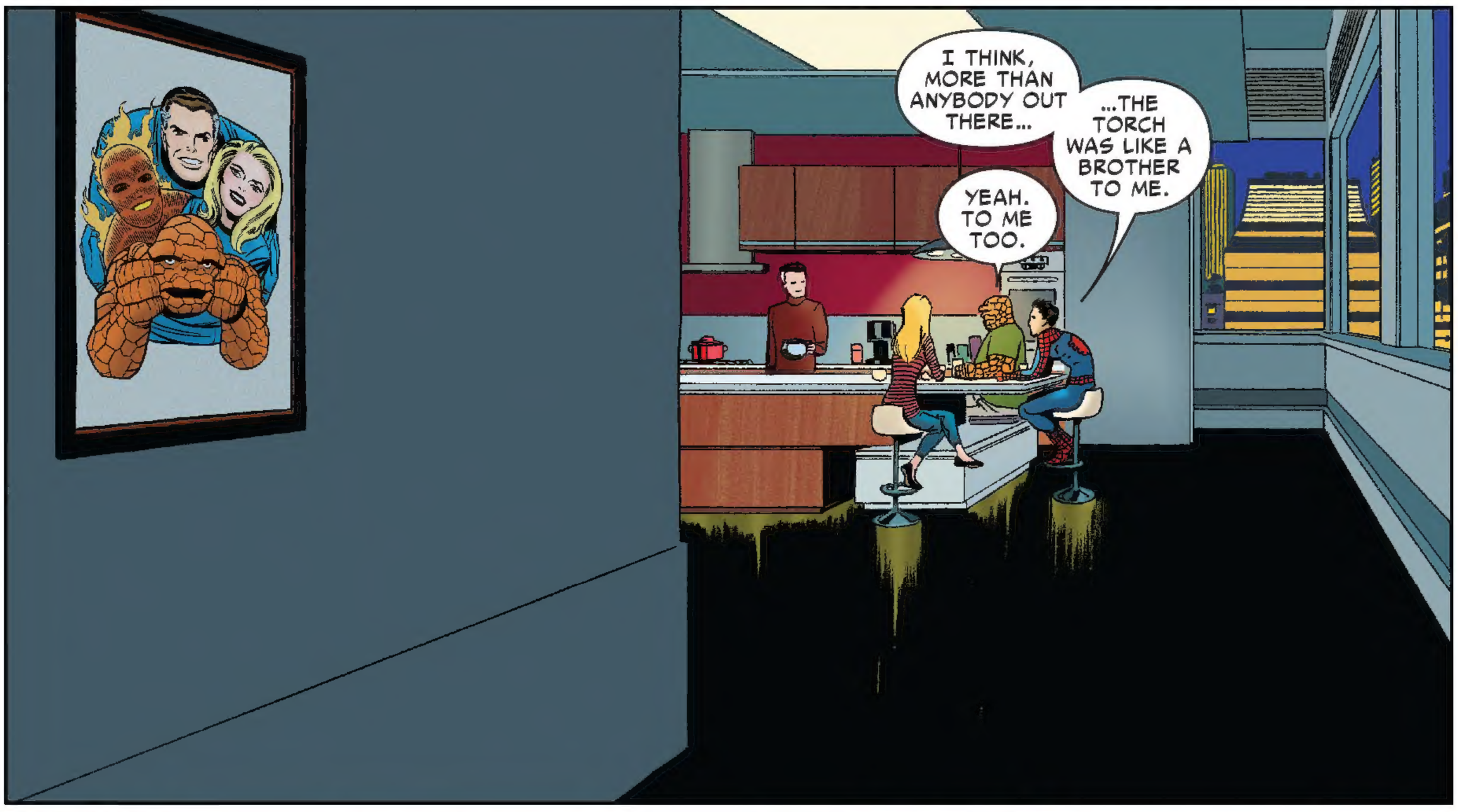

IT WUZ WHEN WE WERE ALL FIGHTING THAT GUY IN THE WOODS UPSTATE.
Y'KNOW. BIG SPACE-MONSTER. WHATZISNAME. AH, RIGHT...
KRAKATOA
COFF

KRAKATOOM WILL INCINERATE YOU ALL!
COWER BEFORE KRAKATOOM!
AS LONG AS HIS ENERGY FIELD IS UP, WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE!
SPIDER-MAN, THINK YOU CAN USE YOUR WEBBING TO GROUND HIM?
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, REED. HERE! IF THIS TRICK WORKS ON GUYS LIKE ELECTRO...
...DON'T SEE WHY IT WOULDN'T WORK ON THE KING-SIZE VERSION!
THAT DID IT! HIS SHIELD'S DOWN!
THAT'S OUR OPENING!
BEN! JOHNNY! SUE! IT'S TIME--HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT-- **NOW!**
WOW.
ALL THAT BELLYACHING... AND HE JUST WENT KABLOOIE.
LIKE A BIG, EVIL, COSMIC PIÑATA. BUT WITHOUT THE CANDY.

SO WHAT? THAT IT, STRETCHO? CAN WE GO HOME NOW?

SORRY, OLD FRIEND, BUT ACCORDING TO MY SENSORS...

...KRAKATOOM'S ENERGY MAY SIMPLY BE DISPERSED. THERE'S STILL A CHANCE HE MIGHT REINTEGRATE HIMSELF.

WE'LL HAVE TO MONITOR THIS AREA FOR A FEW DAYS.

WELL, THAT'S ALL FINE AND DANDY FOR YOU FANTASTIC TYPES...

THWIP!

BUT THIS WONDROUS WEB-SLINGER'S GOT PLACES TO BE. LATERS.

ARE YOU SURE, SPIDEY?

SUZIE, WAIT...

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF CAMPING EQUIPMENT IN THE FANTASTICAR IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN US.

WHAT? LIKE A CAMPING TRIP WITH THE FF?

HMM...

MY UNCLE SAID HE ALWAYS WANTED TO TAKE ME CAMPING, BUT WE NEVER GOT AROUND TO--

Y'KNOW WHAT? COUNT ME IN.

AW, NERTZ. SEE? THIS HERE'S WHAT I WUZ AFRAID OF.

"NOT THAT I MEANT TO BE A DOWNER OR NUTHIN', BUT THE WAY I FIGURED...

LITTLE DID HE KNOW, BUT WHEN THE ORANGE, ROCKY OAF SHATTERED THAT SEAL IN TRANSYLVANIA...

...HE RELEASED AN UNSPEAKABLE HORROR THAT'D BEEN TRAPPED THERE FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS...

"HAVIN' THE WALKIN' MATCHSTICK UNDERFOOT WUZ BAD ENOUGH...

THE DREAD *DIABLO!* OOOOH!

"...SO I THOUGHT THE TWO A' YOU'D BE UNBEARABLE!

BOO! GOTCHA!

WHAT? DID *NOT*. I HAVE SPIDER-SENSE. NOBODY "*GETS ME.*"

OH, I TOTALLY GOTCHA! GOT YOU TO DROP A LOAD.

"BUT IT DIDN'T TURN OUT THAT WAY AT ALL."

NO, YOU MADE ME DROP MY S'MORE! GIMME YOURS.

GET YOUR OWN, BUG BOY.

UP YOURS, WICK FOR BRAINS!

HEH. THIS AIN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL.

SEE?

"IT WOUND UP THE TWO A' YOU JOKERS KEPT EACH *OTHER* BUSY...

"...KEEPIN' ALL A' YER SHENANIGANS TO YOURSELVES!

flame on!

"FOR YOURS TRULY, IT WAS THE BEST VACATION I'D HAD IN YEARS!"

"'CAUSE, FOR ONCE, THERE WEREN'T NO TEENAGE TOMFOOLERY TO SPOIL IT.

"WELL...

ITCHING POWDER?! ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

The New York Times

WHAT? YOU BURNED IT RIGHT OFF. SHEESH!

I'LL BURN YOU RIGHT OFF, YOU WALL-CRAWLIN' CREEP!

New York Times

"...LEAST NONE OF IT IN MY DIRECTION.

"YUP. THE TORCH FINALLY HAD SOMEONE HIS OWN MENTAL-SIZE TA PICK ON.

"AND VICE-VOISA.

"LEAVING A CERTAIN BENJAMIN J. GRIMM ALL ALONE.

the New York Times

"WHICH'S EXACTLY HOW I LIKED IT.

"ALONE."

GUYS?

YOU BETTER NOT BE UP TO NUTHIN'.

CAN'T HAVE YOU BURNIN' AND WEBBIN' UP THIS HERE PRISTINE WILDERNESS, Y'HEAR?

GUYS?

JUMPIN' JEHOSAPHAT! IT'S KRACKATOOM! HE RE-INTA-MEGRATED HIMSELF!

EVERYBODY! GET OVER HERE!

IT'S CLOBBERIN'--

TI-- YAH-WHUT NOW?!

HEY, THIS AIN'T NO MONSTER! IT'S JUST A BUNCHA' STICKS, LEAVES, AND FLAMIN', STICKY--

KRAKOOM

--GOOP.

CHOMP

YES! AND THE SPIDEY/TORCH TEAM BRINGS IT HOME!
MAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE HE ACTUALLY FELL FOR THAT!
WOTTA MAROON!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BENJY?
4

YEAH, WE JUST DID THIS SO YOU WOULDN'T FEEL LEFT OUT.

THAT SO?! WHY DONCHU COME OVER HERE--
--AN' I'LL SHOW YOU SOME APPRECIATIN'-- YANCY STREET STYLE!
AND AS A WISE MAN ONCE SAID...
...EXIT STAGE LEFT!
"OY. GUESS IT WUZ A CASE OF CAREFUL WHAT YA WISH FER..."

THERE I WUZ, WORRIED ABOUT LOSIN' *ONE* BRATTY KID BROTHER AND I WOUND UP WITH *TWO!*

SERVED YOU RIGHT.

YEAH. BUT IT'S A GOOD REMINDER. WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT...

...YOU DON'T HAVE TA BE RELATED TO BE PART A' THIS FAMILY.

SO IF YOU NEED A BROTHER NOW? YOU LOOK TO *ME.* GOT IT?

THANKS, BEN.

AND THAT GOES FOR ME TOO, PETER. YOU CAN ALWAYS THINK OF ME AS YOUR BIG SISTER.

SUE, PLEASE. I ALREADY DO. AND I ALWAYS HAVE.

WELL, EXCEPT FOR THAT *ONE* TIME...

...WHEN JOHNNY AND I HAD TO TAKE YOU HOME AFTER YOU--

PETER, PLEASE!

DEAR?

YEAH, SUZIE. WHAT GIVES?

UNH. PERHAPS IT'S BETTER IF *I* TELL IT.

"THIS TOOK PLACE DURING ONE OF THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR'S *MANY* ATTEMPTS TO MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES BY DESTROYING US.

"WHILE REED AND BEN WERE KEEPING SANDMAN OCCUPIED ACROSS TOWN, JOHNNY AND I WERE SCOURING THE CITY...

"...SEARCHING FOR THE WIZARD, TRAPSTER, AND THEIR MYSTERIOUS NEW FOURTH MEMBER...

POLICE REPORTS SIGHTED THEM IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. SEE ANYTHING?

NOTHING YET. WAIT! PUT 'ER DOWN RIGHT THERE.

WHAT IS IT, JOHNNY? WHAT'D YOU...

THAT'S SARAH WITH AN "H", RIGHT?

FANS? CUTE TEENAGE FANS? UNBELIEVABLE.

NO WAY. HERE I AM, A TIRELESS DO-GOODER...

...PURSUING A HOT TIP ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF ONE A' MY DEADLIEST FOES...

...AND WHAT DO I SPY WITH MY SPIDERY-EYES?

OL' FLAME BRAIN BUSY GETTING HIS EGO STROKED.

Y'KNOW, IT'S HIGH PAST TIME I TOOK THIS HOTSHOT DOWN A PEG.

HEY, TORCH!

GOT YER PANTS!

WHAT THE--?!

SQUEE!

EH.

SPIDER-MAN?!

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU--?

YOINKS! AND AWAYYYY!

SMEK

AHH!

COME BACK HERE, YOU BIG WEB-FACED JERK! I NEED THOSE!

NAH! NOT WITH LEGS LIKE YOURS.

LIAR, LIAR! LEGS ON FIRE!

STOP IT, RIGHT NOW! THE TWO OF YOU! YOU'RE BOTH BEHAVING LIKE *IDIOTS!*

OR DO I HAVE TO REMIND YOU, THE WHOLE REASON WE'RE *IN* THIS AREA...

...IS BECAUSE IT'S THE LAST PLACE THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR WAS SPOTTED! THIS IS SERIOUS!

THANK YOU, INVISIBLE GIRL...

...I COULDN'T HAVE PUT IT BETTER MYSELF. TRAPSTER. BEETLE. DISPOSE OF THEM.

NO SWEAT, WIZARD. WITHOUT THE THING OR MR. FANTASTIC AROUND, THIS'LL BE A BREEZE.

TELL ME ABOUT IT. I'M USED TO TAKING ON SPIDEY AND THE TORCH ALL BY MYSELF.

SEE?! THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

PANTS! NOW!

ZAK

SPOTCH

ZEE

SORRY. MY BAD.

SPLURP

JOHNNY?! HURRY UP! WHAT'S KEEPING YOU?

ZRAX

GEEZ, SIS, GIMME A SECOND, WILL YA?

YOU DON'T GO INTO BATTLE WITHOUT YOUR PANTS ON. IT'S A GUY THING, OKAY?

HM. YOU DON'T SAY.

LET'S PUT THAT TO THE TEST. WHAT DO *YOU* THINK...

...TRAPSTER?

GYAH!

MADE YOU LOOK!

TIGHTY WHITIES, HUH? THAT ANOTHER REASON YOU CHANGED YOUR NAME TO "*THE TRAPSTER?*"

SMACK

YOUR TURN, ABNER.

HEY! *NOT* COOL!

AND THE KID'S BACK IN THE GAME.

THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, SIS. THIS NEW TRICK OF YOURS IS REALLY MAKING THINGS EASY.

"LIKE SHOOTING PANTSLESS FISH IN A BARREL."

ARRGH!

KRUNKK

AND FINALLY, THE WINGLESS WIZARD. OR SHOULD I SAY TROUSER-LESS?

SUSAN STORM! DON'T YOU DARE! I COMMAND YOU TO--

BIPPITY BOPPITY--

BUH-- OH-MY-GOD!

YOU SHALL *RUE* THIS DAY, INVISIBLE GIRL!

RUE IT!

HE'S GOT KRAVEN PANTIES! THINK THEY SHOP AT THE SAME STORE, OR--?

DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT. EVER.

HA! THAT WAS CLASSIC. DIDN'T KNOW YOUR SISTER HAD IT IN HER.

I'M JUST GLAD SHE NEVER TRIED THAT TRICK ON NAMOR. I THINK HIS TRUNKS *ARE* HIS UNDERWEAR.

TAKE 'EM AWAY, GUYS.

YES, OFFICER. THAT WAS ME.

ALONG WITH MYSELF, I CAN TURN OTHER THINGS INVISIBLE AS WELL.

NOW I HOPE THIS HAS TAUGHT THE TWO OF YOU A VALUABLE LESSON!

WHAT'D *I* DO?

MS. STORM, I'M SORRY.

BUT IF WHAT YOU SAID IS TRUE, I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO BRING YOU IN AS WELL.

WHA--?

UNDER WHAT CHARGE?

INDECENT EXPOSURE.

SHE PANTSED THREE MEN IN PUBLIC. THIS'S A SERIOUS OFFENSE.

WELL, HE'S GOT HER THERE.

I KNOW. IT'S ALWAYS THE QUIET ONES.

I *CAN'T* BELIEVE THIS!

AND TURN TO YOUR LEFT...

NYPD
111961

PRECINCT

WELL, CONSIDERING ALL THE TIMES YOU'VE BAILED ME OUTTA JAMS...

...ONLY SEEMS FAIR I RETURNED THE FAVOR. NEVER THOUGHT IT'D BE WITH *ACTUAL* BAIL THOUGH.

UGH. COULD THIS NIGHT *GET* ANY WORSE?

AHEM...

IN THE FANTASTICAR. RIGHT NOW, YOUNG LADY.

IT'S HIGH PAST TIME WE HAD OURSELVES A TALK...

YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS--

ENOUGH OUT OF YOU. YOU'RE GROUNDED. AND NO TV FOR A WEEK.

NOW, WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

AND JUST BECAUSE YOU *CAN* MAKE MEN'S CLOTHES DISAPPEAR DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU SHOULD.

EXACTLY. WHAT IF ONE OF THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR WAS GOING COMMANDO?

DID YOU ***BOTHER*** TO THINK ABOUT THAT?! THERE WERE CHILDREN PRESENT.

TELL ME I DON'T SOUND LIKE THAT...

FINE. I PROMISE TO ***NEVER*** USE MY POWER LIKE THAT ***AGAIN.*** CAN WE DROP THIS NOW?

AND SO WE DECIDED TO NEVER SPEAK OF THAT MOMENT AGAIN.

BUT SUSAN, WHAT ABOUT FOR OUR OFFICIAL CASE FILES AND LOG ENTRIES?

NEVER AGAIN.

ALL RIGHT. SO, LET ME SEE IF I'VE GOT THIS STRAIGHT...

IN OUR *"FANTASTIC"* FAMILY, JOHNNY, BEN, AND SUE ALL GET TO BE ASSIGNED SIBLING ROLES.

AND I ASSUME YOU PERCEIVE ME AS THE PATRIARCH.

WHAT? REED, THERE'S NO WAY I SEE YOU AS *"THE DAD"!*

AH. I SEE.

NAH, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. REED, YOU'RE THE COOLEST FAMILY MEMBER OF 'EM ALL!

YOU'RE THE GUY WITH THE KEYS TO THE CAR! YOU'RE *"MR. ADVENTURE!"*

IT *HAS* BEEN THAT WAY WITH US, HASN'T IT?...

"MUCH LIKE THAT TIME JOHNNY AND I INVITED YOU ALONG FOR THE LAUNCH OF OUR FASTER THAN LIGHT SKIFF."

I GOTTA THANK YOU AGAIN, DR. RICHARDS. I NEVER GET TO DO THIS STUFF...

GO INTO SPACE AND ALL. NOT UNLESS THANOS IS GONNA DESTROY A MOON OR SOMETHING.

THEN IT'S ALWAYS A LAST MINUTE THING AND THERE'S NO TIME FOR--I'M BABBLING, AREN'T I?

IT'S OKAY, SON. I UNDERSTAND. HOW'S IT COMING, JOHNNY?

JUST ADDING THE FINAL TOUCHES.

SSSHHRRZ

GOTTA HAVE FLAMES ON YOUR RIDE. MAKES IT GO FASTER.

WHOOSH!

TELL ME HE DOESN'T *ACTUALLY* BELIEVE THAT.

I'M NOT SURE. HE ALSO PUTS FINS ON ALL OUR DEEP SPACE VEHICLES.

BUT IN A VACUUM THEY WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING.

I KNOW, BUT--

GUYS!

A LITTLE CREDIT, OKAY? I ALSO HELPED BUILD THE CASING TO THE WARP DRIVE.

SURE. AND THAT HULA GIRL ON THE DASHBOARD-- THAT'S YOURS TOO, STORM?

JEEZ. CAN WE JUST GO ALREADY?

HE ALSO ADDED THE FUZZY DICE.

REED! NOT HELPING!

WOO-HOO!

THIS IS AWESOME! WE'RE IN SPACE! ACTUAL OUTER SPACE! IN A SPACESHIP!

UM. YEAH. BIG WHOOP. IT'S A LOT OF BLACK WITH WHITE DOTS IN IT.

WE DO SPACE ALL THE TIME. WAKE ME WHEN WE'RE SOMEWHERE GOOD, LIKE THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

WHOA! THOSE ARE THE STARS IN THE CANIS MINOR!

NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SEEING THEM FROM THE OTHER SIDE! TOO COOL.

YOU'RE TAKING PICTURES? OF WHAT? BLACK-WITH-DOTS. HULLO?

DON'T PAY HIM ANY MIND, SPIDER-MAN. WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I WOULD'VE FOUND THIS "COOL" AS WELL.

AND I STILL DO.

"OUTSIDE OF PETER'S INFECTIOUS ENTHUSIASM FOR SPACE TRAVEL, IT WAS A VERY UNEVENTFUL JOURNEY...

"...UNTIL WE REACHED AN ALL-NEW PHENOMENON. SOMETHING I'D CALL THE ***BANNER NOVA.***

"AFTER OUR FRIEND, BRUCE. FOR THE OBVIOUS REASON, OF COURSE."

DR. RICHARDS? IS THAT--? THAT'S A ***GREEN*** STAR!

WE ***HAVE*** TO STUDY THIS! GET READINGS! COLLECT DATA!

AGREED. FULL STOP.

FASCINATING.

YEAH. BUT HOW'S IT EVEN POSSIBLE?

I'VE ***NO*** IDEA. AND I ***LIVE*** TO SAY THAT.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? IT'S GREEN. SO WHAT?

JOHNNY, THERE ***ARE*** NO GREEN STARS!

AT LEAST, NOT WITH THE WAYS STARS GIVE OFF LIGHT--

--AND HOW THE HUMAN EYE PERCEIVES IT. AND--

BORED NOW. CAN WE GO HOME YET?

ACTUALLY, THAT'D BE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA FOR ***TWO*** REASONS.

ONE: ACCORDING TO MY READINGS-- THIS STAR'S ABOUT TO GO SUPERNOVA.

AND TWO: OUR F.T.L. SKIFF HAS STALLED.

KLIK KLIK KLIK

THIS IS NOT GOOD! ARE THE INERTIAL DAMPENERS SET TOO HIGH?

GOOD CALL, SON. I'LL CHECK.

WHAT CAN I DO?

TORCH, I NEED YOU AT THE BACK OF THE SHIP-- NOW!

USE YOUR POWER. ABSORB ANY SOLAR FLARES COMING OUR WAY. I'LL LOWER THE CANOPY. GO!

I'M ON IT!

BUT I MEANT ABOUT THE SHIP...

...DO YOU NEED ME TO--?

NOT NOW, JOHNNY. FROM THIS MOMENT ON...

...YOU'RE ALL THAT'S STOPPING US FROM BEING BURNT INTO ASH. FOCUS ON THAT.

WHOA. THERE GOES THE ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY.

GOT THE TOOLS.

GOOD, LET'S GET TO WORK.

WE HAVE TO FIX THIS AND FAST!

GNNH! GUYS, WHAT IF--

UNCOUPLING THE HEISENBERG COMPENSATORS. THAT DO IT?

NEGATIVE. THE FUEL RESERVES ARE STORED IN THE PYM PARTICLE GENERATOR.

IF IT SHUT DOWN...?

NOPE. STILL NOT FUNCTIONING. WHAT ABOUT--

UH, SERIOUSLY. MAYBE IF YOU--

DOING A GREAT JOB, JOHNNY. KEEP IT UP.

WAIT. YOU THINK HE MIGHT'VE GOOFED UP THE HOUSING ON THE WARP DRIVE?

...

I'LL LOOK.

THANKS.

LOOK, I'M JUST SAYING-- IT SOUNDED LIKE YOUR ENGINE WAS FLOODED.

NO...

...IT CAN'T BE.

WE'RE USING A DITRANIUM POWER SOURCE...

...BUT THE PRINCIPLE'S THE SAME.

WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN OUT OUR "CARBURETOR".

EXPOSING THE FUEL LINE TO THE VACUUM OF SPACE.

THAT SHOULD DO IT. TRY THE STARTER!

EVERYONE STRAP IN! IT'S NOW OR NOTHING. THAT SUN'S GOING IN 5...4...3...

KLIK KLIK

WOO-HOO!

REED, ARE WE AT A SAFE DISTANCE?

WE ARE NOW.

THINK YOU COULD LET ME OUT? I GOTTA DUMP ALL THIS EXTRA HEAT BEFORE I BURST.

I'LL DENY I EVER SAID THIS...

...BUT FOR ALL I KID JOHNNY, WELL...

...HE'S ACTUALLY A REALLY BRIGHT GUY.

I-I WISH I TOLD HIM THAT WHILE HE WAS STILL AROUND.

IT'S OKAY, PETER. IN FACT, MAYBE IT'S TIME WE LET JOHNNY HAVE THE LAST WORD?

HERE. ALL OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE MADE HOLO DISC RECORDINGS...

...ON THE OFF CHANCE SOMETHING LIKE THIS EVER HAPPENED.

AND HE LEFT A SPECIAL ADDENDUM...JUST FOR YOU.

TESTING. THIS THING ON? UM... PETE, YOU THERE?

PETE? IF YOU'RE HEARING THIS, I'M SORRY, PAL.

WAIT...THERE WAS MORE? SO THIS IS THE LAST THING I'LL EVER HEAR HIM SAY?

UM... MAYBE WE SHOULD WAKE THE KIDS UP FOR THIS?

SORRY THAT I'M GONE. 'CAUSE... WELL...I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL WHEN IT COMES TO LOSING FAMILY.

AND THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE TO ME. FAMILY.

SO...IF YOU'RE THINKING OF THIS AS MY LAST WILL AND ALL...

...I'M NOT LEAVING YOU MY SPORTS CARS OR STUFF LIKE THAT...I'M LEAVING YOU THE BEST THING I EVER HAD...

...MY SPOT ON THIS TEAM. A PLACE IN THIS FAMILY. THE BEST SISTER, TWO BROTHERS, NIECE, AND NEPHEW A GUY COULD ASK FOR.

THEY-- WE ALL LOVE YOU, PETE.

SO? YOU UP FOR IT, BRO?

WE'RE ALL HERE FOR YOU.

HA.

GOTCHA.

The Beginning.

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

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WINNING!! For the first time ever, I'm writing the Spidey letter column from high over the USA. Your addle-brained editor has been sent by Chief Creative Officer (and former New York State champion figure skater) Joe Quesada on a top secret mission out to Marvel's offices in Los Angeles.

(I do hope this isn't like the last time Joe sent me on a trip to visit Marvel's "offices" in Afghanistan…took me weeks to swim back. And for some reason when I returned, someone was sitting at my desk, editing all my books, and married to my wife. That Ralph Macchio is hysterical!)

Anyway, unless I'm being set up like Joe Pesci in *Goodfellas*, this should be an eventful trip. (Here's a bit of gossip for you burgeoning Watchers out there. Former Spidey writer Joe Kelly is several dozen rows in front of me. He has no idea I'm on the flight, so I can report covertly on anything he does. If he tries anything funny, I'll let you know.

Now, let's get to your letters on recent issues…

Hello!

I'm a big fan of Marvel comics! Also i'm from Russia. I have some questions about Spidey's villains.

1) Freak. I very like this character. When will he return? Please include more Freak in comics.

2)Charlie Weiderman. He won't wear vibranium armor anymore? Will he return?

3)Morbius. MY LOVELY VAMPIRE SUCKER! More Morbius!

4)Phil Urich. I like that Phil Urich returned and went on a bad path.

5)Vulture (Jimmy Natale). I like that he is vigilante and cannibal. Please,include more Jimmy Natale in comics.

6)Morlun's dead? Will he return?

7)More Black Cat! She's a good sidekick for Spider-Man to fight versus crime. And good girlfriend! I'm glad to see Black Cat as girlfriend for Peter. NOT Carlie Cooper!

8)I would like to see New Carnage be more evil, more bloody, more maniacal. Like Cletus Cassady or worse.

9)Will Peter meet Xirdal, Decapitator, Pryor Cashman, June Covington?

10)Will Lizard meet Xirdal? Will they be friends?

11)Also, I want to see more Lizard.

Your faithful big fan of Marvel comics.

Alexei Yeremeev
Russia

***Dos vadanya,* Alexei (I'm afraid that and "I must break you". are the only Russian phrases I know.) As longtime readers may recall, I love lists, so I have some answers for you with some help of Spidey writer Dan Slott.**

1)No Freak planned right now, but we love him, so eventually we're bound to see him again.

2)No plans.

3)There have been rumblings… but not in Spidey.

4)Currently Phil is working as the Hobgoblin. He's a big part of the plans for this book.

5)You may see the new Vulture soon, but not in this book. Now Adrian Toomes…you'll be seeing him later in the year in a special issue drawn by none other than Jae Lee.

6)Possibly.

7)Black Cat is NOBODY'S sidekick. Sorry you don't like Carlie yet, but she's here to stay.

8)Then I hope you're reading the current *Carnage* series by Zeb Wells and Clayton Crain. We've gone back to print on all issues so far to meet demand and this book is setting up some big stuff in the future.

9)I hope so…if all of those characters make it out of the current *Osborn* mini-series. One of Marvel's best books right now.

10) Hey that would be cool. I'll keep this in mind.

11) Hopefully you're also checking out the Lizard's appearances in *X-Men* (along with Spidey). It's being drawn by Chris Bachalo…the genius who drew the seminal Lizard story Shed last year.

Web Weavers,

Peter mentions in the latest issue of *Amazing*, 651 that he's never actually owned a home before. I believe in the early nineties right before things went to clone, he and MJ owned a brownstone. I believe they lost it around the time Peter was on trial in New York for a murder that happened in Utah.

Good issue all around. After so many Goblin mysteries it was nice to have the reader know Hobby's identity from the start (I guess Bart Hamilton is never really coming back).

Phil Urich makes an interesting parallel to Peter. However, it's been awhile since I read that heroic Goblin series from the '90s and I don't recall the sonic scream. (The hologram cover, yes).

Could someone remind me how he got that? Also if we could develop Carlie and Peter's relationship I would appreciate it. They seemed to already be in a routine and not altogether excited to be around each other. JJJ Sr. and May have more life in their relationship than a pair of 20-year-olds. How about a date night issue?

Jason McNamara
via e-mail

Jason, if we boned it on Pete owning a house before then I can only blame myself…oh wait, no! I can also blame Ellie…also Dan…and Brevoort was around then, so him as well. Actually if I think about it, Joe Caramagna lettered it and really should have caught it. I'm too busy flying around the country to deal in details! Shame on all of them!

(Seriously, though, that error falls squarely on my shoulder. Let's just say Peter meant the first time he owned a place on his <u>own</u>.)

And finally on Phil Urich's powers…

This was a question we received from several readers, so here's the scoop for ya!

Over the past few years, Phil's appeared in three series:

1) *The Green Goblin* – where he was exposed to a goblin formula/ chemicals AND found a suit and mask. In combination, the suit/mask/goblin chemicals gave him various powers-- like the sonic scream. (If you can find old issues of this book. It's a wild ride! Go get! I'll talk to our collections department about reprinting them.)

2) *Spider-Girl* – (This was a long-running book featuring an alternate universe where Pete and MJ married and had a daughter. It was written by Tom DeFalco who also wriote the *Green Goblin* series mentioned above). In that book we saw how in the future Phil could use his powers WITHOUT the suit and mask.

3) *Loners* mini-series-- In this mini-series, we saw Phil, who at the start seemed to have his act together. However. by the end, he had started heading down a path of goblin-fueled madness.

Put all three of these continuity beats together, and you can see a pattern forming. Dan assures me we'll be getting into how and why Phil's powers work the way they do the next time the Hobgoblin shows up in ASM.

Hi Spider-Men

With #650, *Amazing Spider-Man* gets his brain back Big Time. Peter's finally living a life consistent with his IQ, working in a think tank at Horizon Labs, and dating Carlie, a girl with lots of smarts.

The main event is if course Peter's new creation, the new Spidey stealth suit, that makes him invisible and soundless. This is so brilliant! For sure, this is Spider-Man's Big Time!

Jimmy Djem
Geneva, Switzerland

LETTERS COLUMN CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE…

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

Dear Marvel,

My friends and I agree that the Spider-Man title is doing well and we are happy to see Peter Parker back to using his most powerful weapon in the Spidey arsenal, his brain.

I do have one concern. I was sad to see that the new Spider-Man suit has proven to be nothing more than an advertisement for the recently released *Tron* movie. I know you merged with Disney, and I know Disney produced Tron, but why corrupt this remarkable artwork and phenomenal writing with blatant product placement?

This most recent issue (#651) gave impetus to this letter and I am specifically referring to the lines, Spider-Man: "How do I look?" Black Cat: "Honestly? Like an ad for the new *Tron* movie." That's because he is an ad for the new *Tron* movie and in this case, admission doesn't absolve blame. It pulled me out of the story and distracted me from what is otherwise a fantastic issue.

Let's be clear – I'm not disappointed in Marvel, I'm disappointed in Mickey Mouse. That overgrown rodent should have no right to manage your art, and your loyal readers don't want to see Marvel turned into just another marketing springboard for Disney. We love your comics too much.

R. J. Russell
Canton, OH

R.J., I understand your concern, but you're conflating a couple things. Spidey's stealth suit wasn't designed as a Tron homage. There are undeniable similarities, but that was all coincidental. We took the basic design of the black suit and rethought some of the white highlights. We just wanted something sleek and futuristic looking.

Months after we designed the new suit, we came up with a variant cover program across all of our books showing what the Marvel characters might look like in the world of Tron. That was simply our enthusiasm for the movie coming through...nothing we were forced to do by any stretch. Marvel's done stuff like this for years on end...most notably when Star Wars came out in the 70s . (In that case, we even published a long-running comic currently being collected by our pals at Dark Horse Comics.)

Disney's been great so far letting Marvel be Marvel, but it has given us opportunities to play with other characters and concepts. As another example, at the start of basketball season, we recently did a bunch of Marvel-inspired covers for our sister company ESPN. In that case, it was almost entirely about our E-I-C Axel Alonso being a huge dork about all things NBA.

Sorry you didn't dig it this time around, but there's no reason to be fearful. (Though the rumors of me taking over as Hannah Montana are 100% true.)

And with that, Joe Kelly just went into the airplane bathroom and methinks he needs to be scared out of his wits!

Viva Mad Men!
Simperin' Steve
3/2/11

NEXT!

WELCOME TO THE FF!

AND THEN!

HA! I JUST MADE JOE KELLY SCREAM!

AFTER THAT!

JOE'S CRYING!

JUST THEN!

FEAR ITSELF SPIDEY #1
(JOE JUST KICKED ME IN THE FACE!)

AND DON'T MISS!

HEY, THERE'S NO MEETING OUT HERE IN L.A.! MACCHIO!!!

Send e-mail to
SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM
(please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)